

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00282 271309Z

46

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-03

EUR-08 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 RSC-01

/051 W

----- 049832

R 271231Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2484

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 282

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR SY

SUBJ: EXCHANGE ON U.S. M. E. POLICY WITH CPS LEADER

KHALID BAGDASH.

1. INTRODUCED SELF TO BAGDASH JANUARY 25 AT FRENCH EMBASSY RECEPTION FOR VISITING EDGAR FAURE. BAGDASH AT FIRST SEEMED TAKEN ABACK AT MEETING BUT QUICKLY RALLIED TO MAKE "TWO FUNDAMENTAL CRITICISMS" U.S. M.E. POLICY. FIRST, U.S. IS TRYING TO OUST THE U.S.S.R. FROM ITS POSITION IN THE AREA AND CREATE FRICTIONS BETWEEN IT AND THE ARAB SOCIALIST STATES. SECONDLY, U.S. IS DETERMINED TO STRENGTHEN ISRAEL MILITARILY TO POINT WHERE IT COULD DESTROY ARAB MILITARY FORCES AND DOMINATE WHOLE AREA.

2. REPLIED THAT U.S. SEES U.S.S.R. AS MAJOR POWER WITH WORLD WIDE INTERESTS AND IS NOT SO NAIVE AS TO THINK WE COULD "OUST IT" FROM M.E. SECONDLY, OUR ARMS AID TO ISRAEL IS INTENDED TO MAINTAIN BALANCE AND SUPPORT PEACEFUL EVOLUTION OF M.E.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00282 271309Z

CONFRONTATION. BAGDASH LIMITED SELF TO SCEPTICAL COMMENTS

"GOD WILLING" ("INSHALLAH") ON BOTH POINTS. I COMPLIMENTED HIM ON HAVING KEPT SUCH PHRASE IN HIS VOCABULARY OVER THE YEARS.

3. COMMENT. BAGDASH TOGETHER WITH THE CPS SEEM TO BE LIGHTLY REGARDED BY ALL SYRIANS THESE DAYS, IN CONTRAST TO ASSUMPTIONS OF LATE FIFTIES, AND UNTIL BAATH TAKEOVER IN 1963, THAT SYRIAN COMMUNISTS HAD CHANCE OF PLAYING PIVOTAL ROLE IN SYRIAN POLITICAL LIFE. ADMIRERS OF ASAD CITE HIS TREATMENT OF BAGDASH AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF PRESIDENT'S SKILL IN CONTAINING ALL POTENTIAL OPPOSITION FORCES. SARG GRANTS BAGDASH MONTHLY STIPEND, CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CAR AND HONORIFIC POSITION AS MEMBER OF NON-BAATHI "NATIONAL FRONT". HE APPEARS OCCASIONALLY AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS.

4. FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION WOULD NOTE THAT DESPITE REPORTS OVER YEARS OF BAGDASH' ILL HEALTH, HE LOOKS WELL TO DAY, TALKS COHERENTLY AND IS STILL INTERESTED IN, AND INCLINED TO LUNGE AT ANY WOMAN WITHIN REACH.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PARTY LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0661
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750118/aaaaaqbz.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE ON U.S. M. E. POLICY WITH CPS LEADER KHALID BAGDASH.
TAGS: PFOR, UR, SY, US, XF, (BAGDASH, KHALID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006